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SOURCE

1. Russian Troop Train Movements in Northern Poland, 13-15 February 1949

- a. On 13 February a troop train left Gerdauen, Soviet East Prussia, for Berlin. It consisted of 33 cars carrying Soviet troops with violet shoulder tabs.
- b. On 14 February the same train left Korsze (Korschen, R55/V00) with an additional 28 cars carrying the same type of Soviet troops. This 61-car train proceeded via Olsztyn (Allenstein) and Ostroda (Osterode) to Ilawa (Deutsch Eylau).
- c. On 15 February a troop train left Ilawa and proceeded to Pila (Schneidemühl) via Jablonowo (Gosslershausen) and Torun (Thorn). It consisted of 60 cars with Soviet troops wearing black shoulder tabs.
- d. The trains mentioned above carried about 25 or 30 men per car. Most of the men seemed to be young recruits about 18 or 20 years old. They had close-cropped hair and wore tattered uniforms with ropes instead of leather belts around their blouses. None of them knew their ultimate destination in Germany.

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Comment: It is difficult to distinguish between Soviet troop trains and ordinary freight trains since the same type of covered car is used for both. The car used for troop transports usually has a small window (15 x 20 cm) and a stove pipe projecting from the side. The troop trains usually stop at small, out-of-the-way stations in Poland to empty slop pails and dole out food and drinking water. Never more than ten soldiers accompanied by a sergeant and an officer are allowed out of the cars to do the chores. Most of the troop trains cross the border into Germany at night. At each major stop in Poland all the troops are counted and the train is thus sometimes held up for hours.

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